



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 04/07/2009

Arlington Historical Commission
 Minutes for the Meeting of
 Tuesday, 7 April 2009
 Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

Call to Order: JoAnn Robinson, Co-Chairman, presiding, with Co-Chair Richard Duffy. Commissioners Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, Dianne Schaefer, Eric Stange, and Jane Becker.

Review of March 2009 Minutes: Minutes accepted.

Communications Received:

- Call from Bob Dinell, contractor regarding 51 Smith St.
- Call from Jeff Shaw, Donovan Sweeney Architects, requesting an informal hearing regarding the Arlington Fire Station (see Informal Hearing at 8:30pm below).
- Call from Gary Slebodnick regarding addition to 53 Brattle Street (see Informal Hearing at 9:00pm below).
- Call regarding Historical House Marker for 147 Warren St. Left message for property owner to arrange delivery and payment.
- Call regarding demolition of properties not on the Arlington Inventory of Significant Structures: 28 Princeton Road, 55 Norcross Street, 18 Hawthorne. Faxes sent to the Building Department.
- Call from Remax Winchester regarding 112 Westmoreland Ave. Referred to Arlington Historical Commission website. Vicki discussed hearing process.
- Call from Rita Beckett regarding Empire Chest donation.
- Call from Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition about establishing service opportunities for high school students. Can we help?
- Letter regarding Student Government Day 9am on May 7, 2009 sent to Bob Botterio.
- Call from Jack Carey about Historic Marker for 12 Schouler Court. Vicki sent form.
- Call regarding Mill Brook Linear Park- Andrew West, ARB member. Regarding meeting for April 23, 2009.

Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:

- Arlington Preservation Fund (Frisch) – No report.
- Zoning By-Law Review Committee (Stange) – Voted on ARB recommendations.
- Arlington Historical Society (Duffy) – On Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 7:30pm the Arlington Historical Society will present: Caring for Your Older or Historic Home with Sally Zimmerman, Preservation Specialist of Historic New

England. Members of the Arlington Preservation Fund, Inc., The Arlington Historical Commission and The Arlington Historic Districts Commission will attend to provide information. Admission is free.

Old Schwamb Mill (Duffy) – Dallin exhibit closed. New spring exhibit up and running.

Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Frisch) – No report.

- 200th Anniversary Committee (Meister) – Ms. Meister reported that no action has been taken on the Warrant Article and that discussion regarding the proposal will take place at a special town meeting. The 200th Committee will have a meeting on April 23, 2009.

Historical Commission FY 2009 Budget – Nothing to report.

Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

- 3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02 Stange – Nothing to report.
- 821 Massachusetts Avenue (Noyes RT) 10/03; modified 4/08 Duffy – Hearing of Redevelopment Board was held and the house will be preserved.
- Symmes Hospital (Town of Arlington) 6/04 Duffy – Nothing to report.
- 21 Appleton Street (Colosimo) 4/08 Robinson – Nothing to report.
- 18 Water Street (Callahan) 7/08 Robinson – Nothing to report.
- 40 Lake Street (Burger/Rosenburg) 9/08 Guthrie – Nothing to report.
- 3 Brantwood Road (aka 22 Kensington Park) (Anesse) 9/08 Robinson – Addition is up.
- 43-45 Massachusetts Ave. 7/08 Schaefer – Nothing to report.
- 11-13 Peirce Street Duffy- Nothing to report.
- 71 Walnut Street (Brown) 3/09 Guthrie-Nothing to report.
- 323-329 Broadway (Mazmanian) 4/09 Schaefer- added tonight

Continuing Projects

- Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Inventory Expansion and Review: Duffy, Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Education/Outreach: Duffy/Robinson – Display on Old Burying Ground is scheduled for the “Community Table” at Robbins Library in May.
- Historic House Markers: Duffy – No orders outstanding.
- Town Hall: Duffy – Nothing to report. Repair of cast plaster decoration is recommended.
- Web Site: Stange – Nothing to report.

Discussion and Hearing

8:00pm Formal Hearing of 323-329 Broadway (Greg Mazmanian, trustee and Rick Ananian, contractor.

Plans for 323-329 were presented. Proposal included:

Updating and improving the deteriorating stucco face of the building. Begin by removing all loose debris from face of building. Then apply 1” thick foam panels with adhesive and then anchor with tap-con fasteners.

Construct a crown shaped coping at the very top of the parapett for added detail. Next do best to reconstruct the "Egg and Dart" framed squares with marble like inserts.
 Plan for new design to provide better water drainage behind signs. The decorative urns are slightly raised and painted, we will make every effort to duplicate the details.
 After stucco removal is complete would like to replace the awnings with a similar material and look using existing frames.

Mr. Guthrie suggested the use of an ogee shape outward bowing curve and then inward bowing curve. It is a more robust design with extra horizontal lines and with a row of dentil below to finish off the edge. There is a historical precedent for it.

Motion made to authorize the renovation of the façade to include replacement of stucco and replication of recessed panels of egg and dart to match as close as possible the round marble medallions at roofline and crown moldings of ogee shape. Using dentil cornice MLD421-12 FYPON (4 inches).

Motion approved. Dianne Schaefer is monitor of this property.
 Hearing closed at 8:33pm.

8:30 Informal Hearing regarding Arlington Fire Station at 1007 Massachusetts Ave. (Jeff Shaw of Donovan Sweeney Architects)

Attendance for this informal hearing:

John Cole, Mark Miano, William Shea, Kevin Nigro, Mike Boujoulian, Robert Juusda, Robert Jefferson, Brett Donham and Jeff Shaw.

Plans and issues presented:

- Restoration of exterior envelope of both firehouses.
- Correct accessibility issues.
- Central will have very little exterior changes.
- Highland modest exterior changes to be able to get modern apparatus into the building. Existing opening too low. Plans to lower floor and raise arches.
- Modernize. Proper egress from building.
- Remove porch and hose room at Highland Station.

Informal Hearing closed at 8:56pm.

9:00pm

Informal Hearing for 53 Brattle St. Gary Slebodnick, owner.

Mr. Slebodnick presented draft plans for additions to his property.

- 1-story addition
- 2-story addition
- will return for formal hearing in May or June.

Commissioners commented on plans and gave him suggestions regarding plans. Will return with revisions.

Old Business:

- The Armenian Cultural Foundation –Alan Hovhaness Memorial

The memorial is a ten-ton rock that they want to place in the Whittemore Park. Plan to dedicate on May 17 following concert at Town Hall. Commission is deeply concerned about these plans and that there was no consultation with the Arlington Historical Commission before plans went ahead.

New Business:

Adjourn at 10:14pm

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be May 5, 2009, at 7:45pm

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.